

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 4-7, 9-10, and 14-17 are currently amended. No claims are canceled. No claims are added. No new matter has been added. The specification provides support for the amendments, for example, at page 3, line 29 to page 4, line 2, page 4, lines 15-29, and page 7, lines 9-28, and Figures 2 and 3.

Response to Objections

The Replacement Sheets submitted herewith include changes to Figures 4 and 5. In Figures 4 and 5, the “Prior Art” legend has been included. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended Figures 4 and 5 overcome the objection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to Figures 4 and 5 be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 13, and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Applicants Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter “AAPA”). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of cited references.

Claim 1 recites in part “a plurality of anchoring elements projecting radially from an inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment, the plurality of anchoring elements being arranged along an axial direction of the second tower segment to prevent internal force concentrations within the wall of the first tower segment.” Applicant respectfully submits that AAPA fails to disclose at least these features of the claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that the element 5 of Figure 5, which the Examiner has interpreted to be an anchoring element, is not an anchoring element. Office Action, page 3. AAPA expressly describes element 5 as being a *reinforcing element* (reinforcement steel) in a concrete tower segment without any pre-stressing elements. Applicant’s specification, page 2, lines 21-23, Figure 5. AAPA describes the reinforcing elements as being different from

the anchoring elements. See page 2, lines 21-29, and page 8, lines 10-13. As such, element 5 of AAPA is not an anchoring element.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the element 6 of Figure 5 does not read on “a plurality of anchoring elements **projecting radially from an inner surface of the wall** of the second tower segment,” as recited in claim 1, because the AAPA expressly illustrates the flat ring-like element 6 as being disposed at the bottom of the steel segment 3, not projecting radially from an inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment. The describes that outer edge of the flat ring-like anchoring element 6 extends proximally toward an outer surface 7 of the concrete tower segment, but not that the flat ring-like anchoring element 6 projects radially from an inner surface of the wall. *Id.* at page 2, lines 23-29, Figure 5.

In addition, even if for the sake of argument, the flat ring-like anchoring element 6 were to read on the plurality of anchoring elements, which it clearly does not, claim 1 recites that “the plurality of anchoring elements [are] arranged along an axial direction of the second tower segment,” which is also not taught or illustrated by AAPA. As described above, the flat ring-like anchoring element 6 is arranged at one location, namely at the bottom of the steel segment 3. *Id.*

For at least the reasons given above, AAPA fails to teach all the features of the claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-3, 6-8, 13, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 9-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,272,929 to Hanson (hereinafter “Hanson”) in view of AAPA. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of cited references.

The Examiner acknowledges that Hanson fails to teach a plurality of anchoring elements projecting radially from an inner surface of the wall. Office Action, page 5. The Examiner alleges that AAPA cures this deficiency. *Id.* Applicant respectfully disagrees. As described above with respect to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), AAPA fails to teach “a plurality of anchoring elements projecting radially from an inner surface of the wall of the

second tower segment, the plurality of anchoring elements being arranged along an axial direction of the second tower segment to prevent internal force concentrations within the wall of the first tower segment.” As such, the combination of Hanson in view of AAPA fails to teach all the features of claim 1.

For at least the reasons given above, the combination of Hanson in view of AAPA fails to teach all the features of the claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-3 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5, 8, and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hanson in view of AAPA, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 2,987,855 to Singleton et al. (hereinafter “Singleton”). Given that claims 4, 5, 8, and 14-15 depend from independent claim 1, which is patentable over Hanson in view of AAPA, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 5, 8, and 14-15 are also patentable over Hanson in view of AAPA, in further view of Singleton. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 4, 5, 8, and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kevin Grange at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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